

EPA Official Record

Notes ID: 22F99EFD92A00813852577DD0067181C

From: Bob Cianciarulo/R1/USEPA/US

To: Dave Dickerson

Delivered Date: 07/06/2010 10:50 AM EDT

Subject: link and text....It does say they sent a letter

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=%2f20100705%2fNEWS%2f7050313%2f-1%2fTOWN>

Reps ask public comment extension for PCB cap

Text Size: [A](#) | [A](#) | [A](#)

 [Print this Article](#)  [Email this Article](#) [ShareThis](#)

By **CHARIS ANDERSON**

canderson@s-t.com

July 05, 2010 12:00 AM

•

NEW BEDFORD — Several local state representatives want more time for the public to comment on a proposed change to the cleanup plan for New Bedford Harbor, arguing the extension is needed to ensure residents are fully informed about the proposal.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed using a confined aquatic disposal, or CAD, cell for some of the remaining contaminated sediment in the harbor, which would involve burying the sediment in the harbor instead of disposing of it off-site.

"Given the significant difference, that this means the dredged PCBs will remain in the harbor — capped, but remain in the harbor for the next several hundred years — I think it's worth a bit more opportunity for the public to weigh in," said Rep. William Straus, D-Mattapoissett,

Straus, along with three of his colleagues — Reps. Antonio Cabral, Stephen Canessa and John Quinn — sent a letter Thursday to the EPA requesting an extension of the 30-day public comment period on the agency's proposal.

According to Cabral, 30 days is a relatively short period of time for residents to be able to examine all of the relevant information and then submit comments.

"This is an issue that's been ongoing for years, so if we ask for additional time for public comment, I think it's a reasonable request," he said.

Quinn said the purpose of the comment period is to educate people and make sure they understand the proposal; extending the timeline will facilitate that process.

"It's a dramatic change from what the original plan was," he said. "The public should be entitled to more than 30 days to comment on such a dramatic change."

In addition to extending the timeline, Straus said he would like to see the EPA hold additional public meetings on the proposal.

"I really don't think there's been enough of an alert to the public that a change in the cleanup remedy means that there's going to be a permanent change in what the harbor looks like and how it will be used in the future," he said.

A spokeswoman for the EPA could not be reached for comment Friday.
